

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with John Kilyk on April 17, 2008.

IN THE CLAIMS –

Claims 21, 34, and 37 have been **cancelled**.

Claim 1, line 8, **DELETE** "X is methylene, an oxygen atom or sulfur atom,"

Claim 1, line 10, **DELETE** " R^{1A} is a hydrogen atom or a C1-6 alkyl group,"

Claim 1, line 11, **DELETE** " R^{2A} and R^{3A} are the same or different and each is a hydrogen atom, a carboxyl group or a C1-"

Claim 1, line 12, **DELETE** " 6 alkyl group,"

Claim 1, line 15, **DELETE** " R^{7A} is a C1-10 alkyl carbonyl group,"

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1, 3-4, 10, 12, 14-15, 20, 28, 31-33, and 36 are allowed.

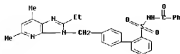
The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 1, 3-4, 10, 12, 14-15, 20, 28, 31-33, and 36 are patentable over Piccariello et al., US 20020099013, which includes the exemplified compound:

RN 157263-00-8

Art Unit: 1625

CN Benzamide, N-[[4'-[(2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3H-imidazo[4,5-b]pyridin-3-yl)methyl][1,1'-biphenyl]-2-yl]sulfonyl]-



, which has different B group as the instant application. Therefore, the claims are free of prior art.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Niloofar Rahmani whose telephone number is 571-272-4329. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Janet Andres, can be reached on 571-272-0867. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/NILOOFAR RAHMANI/

04/17/2008

/D. Margaret Seaman/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1625

